From: Eric Pickup
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

This settlement just postpones the problem until tomorrow. In five years, you'll be back in court for some other violation. Settling for a slap on the wrist for the sake of a tiny boost to the economy is bad judgement. If this was decided politically you have little choice but at least put some teeth in to it. Right now you have behavioral remedies that can be easily worked around that in the end will have little effect on Microsoft's business and a laughable enforcement mechanism which invites them to ignore the settlement. You are doing a disservice to the industry and the country. If you want to revitalise the industry you need to allow the small and mid-size businesses to survive the displeasure of the reigning monopoly - afterall it's those small businesses that are being truly innovative. Microsoft just takes other's ideas, slaps them into a bundle and calls that innovation. If Microsoft repeatedly crushes smaller companies, in the end there will be fewer and fewer innovators and with no one else to copy Microsoft will just stop bundling and then where will we be?

Eric Pickup